INTERPELLATION.

6. III. (*a*) Are the Government aware of the probable results on Travancore trade, of the proposed Cochin Harbour?

(*b*) What steps have the Government taken to protect the interests of Travancore trade?

Mr. S. Adam Sait.

7. I. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what the total number of public servants of this State who draw a monthly pay of Rs. 20 or above is? How many of them are Mahomedans?

(*b*) How many qualified Mahomedans applied for Government service during the last three years, and how many of these were appointed?

(*c*) What action, if any, have Government taken regarding the representations made at the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that Government Circulars which directed preferential treatment being given to qualified Mahomedan applicants, have not been duly carried out by some of the Heads of Departments?

8. II. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken or intend taking any action on the representations made by the Members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the public regarding the extension of the Railway to some central part of the town of Trivandrum and regarding the necessity for fixing suitable timings and keeping in reserve extra carriages at Trivandrum to provide for sufficient accommodation with a view to avoid the present unnecessary expenses and difficulties undergone by the people?

9. III. Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend granting any famine allowance to Government servants, at least to those drawing a pay of Rs. 20 or below in consideration of the high prices of commodities prevailing at present?

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.

10. I. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the unprecedented fuel scarcity in the principal towns and generally throughout the State, as well as the great rise in the price of fuel, has resulted in acute suffering to the people?

ANSWER.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

(*a*) and (*b*). Government are satisfied after due enquiry that the development of the Cochin Harbour will not in any way adversely affect the interests of Travancore.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

The total number of public servants drawing a monthly pay of Rs. 20 and above is 4,744. Information in regard to the second portion of the Member's question is not available.

Government are not in possession of the information.

The attention of Heads of Departments has been once again drawn to the instructions of Government on the subject.

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Row.

The extension of the Railway to some central part of the town of Trivandrum will be considered by Government. The question of renewing the day service in view to provide the necessary convenience to passengers is under correspondence with the Railway Company. The Company have written to Government that they have made arrangements to remedy the inconvenience due to insufficient accommodation.

Financial Secretary Mr. K. George.

The question of granting a scarcity allowance to low-paid Government servants is engaging the attention of Government. Orders will be issued shortly.

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Row.

Government are not aware of any unprecedented scarcity of firewood throughout the State.

Temporary difficulties in getting firewood in the town of Nagercoil and a portion of the town of Trivandrum were brought to the notice of Government. The Forest Department maintains depots in these towns for sale to the public of firewood supplied by contractors engaged for the purpose. There was shortage, for a temporary period, in the supply owing to difficulty in transport and failure of the contractors. The Conservator reports that efficient arrangements have since been made for adequate supply, and that the public do not resort to the depots, as they obtain firewood in large quantities in the open market.

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